



22 NOV 2023

## Memorandum

From: Rich Rainer, Town Administrator  
To: Portsmouth Town Council

SUBJ: PAVEMENT IMPROVEMENTS - EAST MAIN ROAD

Encl: (1) R. Davis, DOT (personal communication November 22, 2023)

Honorable Council,

I am writing to update you on a recent meeting with the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (DOT) and to convey his request for the Town's affirmation regarding the East Main Road repaving project, specifically the planned roundabout at the Turnpike Avenue intersection.

On Tuesday, November 21, I had the opportunity to meet with the Director of the DOT, who discussed the impending East Main Road repaving project. The primary focus of our conversation was the planned roundabout at the intersection of East Main Road and Turnpike Avenue. The DOT plans to release Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for this project imminently.

The DOT is seeking the Town's affirmation to proceed with the project as designed, but is aware there are stakeholders with varying opinions on the installation of the roundabout. To assist the Town Council in making an informed decision, the Project Manager has provided details on the options available for the project and the potential impacts associated with not supporting the roundabout portion.

According to the Project Manager, if the Town does not support the roundabout, the DOT will need to modify the project to strictly focus on resurfacing East Main Road. However, this adjustment comes with implications. There are RIDEM and Stormwater permitting requirements related to the addition of impervious areas. The roundabout construction originally addressed these requirements with a sand filter stormwater treatment unit at the bank property. If the roundabout is removed, these requirements will no longer be met, necessitating the removal of all impervious additions from the project. In practical terms, this means that sidewalks, shared-use paths, and curbing realignments would be eliminated, and the project would be limited to milling, paving, and replacing existing wheelchair ramps only.

DOT notes the pavement at the intersection of Turnpike Ave and East Main Road is currently in poor condition. If the project is restricted to resurfacing only in this area, it may be most practical to continue the paving through the intersection. While this option is less impactful than the construction of the roundabout, it would still result in some level of disruption to stakeholders in the area.

DOT has requested the Town Council review these options and communicate the Town's decision after this Council meeting.

Very respectfully,  
Rich Rainer

## Richard A. Rainer

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**From:** Davis, Ryan (DOT) <Ryan.Davis@dot.ri.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 11:14 AM  
**To:** Richard A. Rainer  
**Cc:** Fisette, Lori (DOT); Desimone, Peter (DOT)  
**Subject:** Pavement Improvements - East Main Road  
  
**Importance:** High

Mr. Rainer,

After discussions with Senior Management and the Design Consultant, the options we have for this project are as follows.

If the Town does not have the support for the roundabout portion of the project, then the Department will need to make this project strictly a resurfacing project. There are RIDEM and Stormwater permitting requirements involved with the addition of any impervious area. It is required that stormwater runoff be treated within the project area. All of these requirements were being met within the roundabout construction, specifically with a sand filter stormwater treatment unit at the bank property. If the roundabout is removed, these requirements are not being met, meaning **all** impervious additions would have to be removed from the project. The Department would potentially be able to move forward on schedule with resurfacing the roadway of East Main Road, but all sidewalks, shared use path and curbing realignments would need to be removed from the project. The project would then be strictly milling, paving and replacing the existing wheelchair ramps only.

It should also be noted that the pavement at the intersection of Turnpike Ave and East Main Road is in poor condition. If the Department is to limit the project to strictly resurfacing in this area, it make the most sense to continue the paving through the intersection- less impactful than the construction of the roundabout and all that goes along with it, but there would still impacts to the stakeholders in this area.

Please review and contact the Department after the Town Council meeting on Monday with how the Town wishes to proceed.

Thank you, and enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday.

**Ryan Davis**  
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